

Environmental NEWS RELEASE





Legal Contact: Felipe Gomez

(312) 886-6833

Technical Contact: Charles Gebien

(773) 927-7150

Media Contact: John Perrecone

(312) 353-1149

For Immediate Release: February 28, 1997

No. 97-OPA042

EPA: CLEANUP UNDER WAY AT DOUBLE A METALS

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that cleanup is proceeding quickly at the Double A Metals site, 3321 South Pulaski Rd., Chicago, IL. EPA began work at the abandoned metals recycling facility in early February and is expected to complete it in April.

Hazardous materials found at the Superfund site include scattered piles and containers of metal processing by-products contaminated by lead, as well as open containers of bag-house dust. Prior to EPA's involvement -- which was requested by Chicago Department of Environment -- the site was poorly secured and a target for fly-dumpers and vandals. The site is now under 24-hour security protection.

When completed, an estimated 60 drums of processing by-products, 20 drums of waste oils and solvents, and 8,000 cubic yards of hazardous material will have been treated, removed,

and transported to an industrial process waste landfill. After the cleanup, the City of Chicago expects to tear down the remaining buildings and evaluate the site for future re-use.

Estimated cost of the cleanup: \$600,000.

The 4-acre site is located in Chicago's 22d Ward, bordered to the south by a Commonwealth Edison power plant. The nearest home is located about 300 feet north of the site, on Pulaski Road.

"EPA is pleased with the quick pace of cleanup and cooperation from the City of Chicago," said Regional Superfund Director William Muno. "Any potential hazards to the community have been contained and will soon be removed completely."

Double A Metals, a subsidiary of Dixon, IL-based Jepscor Metals, ceased operations in 1991. Between 1983 and 1990 the site was operated by the Jay Armstrong Metals Co., and from 1965 to 1983 by the H. Winter Metal Co. Activity at the site goes back to about 1917, including a truck garage and other manufacturing operations.